

Dedicated Student Explores Anatomy Of Assassination

THE VOICE OF THE STUDENTS OF BELHAVEN COLLEGE

ED. NOTE—Belhaven College student Jim Brown has done an exhaustive study of the assassination of President John Kennedy. Such an admirable effort deserves recognition, and the CLAN CALL wishes to express its thanks to Mr. Brown for making available the text of his investigations.

BY JIM BROWN

On February 17, 1967, the heavens collapsed. New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, the newspaper revealed, was investigating the assassination of President Kennedy. At first, Garrison dodged all questions from reporters, but finally consented to affirm publicly what the F.B.I. wiretappers had known since December. "My staff and I have solved the case," he began; "we know the key cities, individuals involved, how it was done." There would be arrests and convictions, he promised, but they would probably not be in the near future.

A few days later, one of the D.A.'s prime suspects, David William Ferrie, a 49-year-old ex-airline pilot, was found dead in bed. Garrison, standing a tall six-foot-six before newsmen, said he would not cooperate with Federal authorities, and would continue his investigation, "that justice be done, if the heavens collapse."

He closed his press conference, attended by reporters from all over the world, by disclosing that he knew the names and identities of the men who had really killed President Kennedy, and Lee Harvey Oswald was not one of them.

"The connecting link at every level of operation, from the oil-rich sponsors of the assassination down to the Dallas police department through Jack Ruby and including anti-Castro adventurers at the operating level, were Minute Men, Nazi-oriented," he later revealed, adding, "It was essentially a Nazi operation."

SHAW ARRESTED

Then, on March 1, 1967, Garrison again shocked the world and New Orleans in particular by suddenly ordering the arrest of Clay L. Shaw, a tall, gray-haired, 34-year-old bachelor, a familiar figure in prominent New Orleans social circles, a wealthy, retired and respected businessman and former director of the International Trade Mart. Following this, the D.A. detailed what he felt to be definitive evidence of a conspiracy among Oswald, Shaw, and Dave Ferrie. The initial meeting occurred September 3, 1963, from 2 to 3 P.M. in a room at the Jack Tar Capitol House in Baton Rouge. Present at the meeting were Lee Harvey Oswald ("the party"), Jack Ruby, and Clay Shaw. A follow-up meeting, to settle details, occurred about two weeks later in Ferrie's apartment. There, continued Garrison, had been present at "the message center," which consisted of a pay

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phone in Houston, prepared as a backup pilot to fly the assassins to Mexico, if necessary.

On March 14, 1967, a New Orleans tribunal heard the merits of a possible case against Shaw. A Baton Rouge insurance salesman and student named Perry Raymond Russo informed the three-judge panel that he had attended a party at Ferrie's apartment in mid-September, after which he heard three men—Ferrie, "Leon" Oswald, and Clem Bertrand—discuss a plot to kill the President. Russo dramatically identified Shaw as Bertrand, and said the three discussed "triangulation of fire," "availability of exit," and that one man would have to act as "decoy" while the others escaped. His story was verified under sodium pentothal ("truth serum"). In Las Vegas, Garrison conferred with Shaw's close friend, James Dondson, who was with Shaw at the moment Kennedy was assassinated.

REPORT DISMISSED

At the pre-trial hearing, one of Shaw's lawyers attempted to introduce into evidence the Report: "If we are going to accept the Warren Report as factual then we've wasted a week of time," stated Judge Bernard Bagert. "Yes, it is fraught with hearsay and contradiction," added Judge Matthew S. Braniff. In so ruling (that the Warren Report was inadmissible as evidence in a court of law), less than three years after it had become the butt of public scorn and derision, this legal judgment merely confirmed a ruling of 67% of the American populace that the improper methods of the Commission and its staff rendered any such Report invalid.

UNDER THE INFLUENCE

For a time, the New Orleans investigation had front-page priority. Then in the third month, after Clay Shaw's lawyers were successful in a series of legal delays which would later bring the case to its present standstill, Garrison began to fade from the lime light. The probe then underwent a barrage of attacks from the national news media. With precision vigor, THE SATURDAY EVENING POST, LIFE, NEWSWEEK, N.B.C., C.B.S., and THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, independently carried features "exposing" the District Attorney as a political opportunist, building a phony case on falsified evidence, perjured testimony by insane witnesses, and a rogue gallery of a thousand Medusas arbitrarily selected for the "circus" trial. Garrison astutely commented that the charge was unworthy of comment. At one time it was even suggested that Perry Russo's story was not credible since it was given while under the "influence" of sodium pentothal, evidently meaning that he was given truth serum to make him lie.

For the present, the Garrison investigation is stymied by the Federal government. Clay Shaw's

lawyers have been unsuccessful in local criminal courts to halt the prosecution, and had exhausted every legal maneuver. Then they appealed to Federal Civil Court, and to the shock of the local legal community, were granted another delay.

"On June 17, 1968, I got up early in the morning and went downtown to the U.S. Federal Courts Building on Royal Street, and found my way up to the courtroom where arguments were being heard. In the elevator going down, Assistant D.A. Jim Alcock had choice comments about the futility of it all. Five long weeks later, the court issued its ruling that Garrison's prosecution had not violated Shaw's Constitutional rights, and to proceed with the trial. An additional three weeks following that the same Federal

court granted another delay, until Shaw's lawyers could appeal to the Supreme Court. This is the present status of the Garrison investigation—waiting for the Supreme Court to place it on the calendar. "It will be interesting to see," commented attorney Mark Lane recently at Mississippi State University, "how Earl Warren and his colleagues will rule on a case involving a Report written by Earl Warren and some other colleagues."

STYMIED BY STATES

Garrison is also stymied by a refusal of state governors to extradite other suspects in the conspiracy. Governor Harold Hughes of Iowa, tenaciously refuses to extradite Sandra Moffett McMaines, who allegedly attended the party at Dave Ferrie's apartment, at which the conspiracy was later purportedly discussed. Governor John Connally, with the marks of the assassins still fresh on his body, unexplainedly refuses to extradite Cuban-exile revolutionary leader Sergio Arcacha Smith, who reportedly worked with Lee Harvey Oswald. Governor Ronald Reagan of California refuses to extradite Edgar Eugene Bradley, whom Garrison has charged as being a major conspirator, and is presently the west-coast representative for right-wing radio evangelist, Dr. Carl McIntyre. Finally, Governor James Rhodes of Ohio refuses to extradite Gordon Novel, who has admitted he is a C.I.A. agent. At the Republican convention last August, Governor Reagan offered Rhodes the vice-presidency on his ticket, and Rhodes accepted.

There appears to be a brotherhood among the right-wing super-patriots, an association between strangers thicker than blood. Borne from a false faith in the quixotically heroic efforts of witchhunting, self-aggrandizing opportunists, many innocent citizens are paralyzed by the fear of being called subversive or unpatriotic from speaking out against governmental documents.

OSWALD AND FERRIE

Further investigation by the New Orleans District Attorney has revealed that Oswald was involved in a strange relationship with one David William Ferrie. In January, 1954, Lee and his mother returned to New Orleans. Two of Oswald's schoolmates, Frederick S. O'Sullivan and Edward Voehel each testified independently that they and Oswald joined a Civil Air Patrol unit commanded by Ferrie. Oswald's friends and his brother noticed a change come over him shortly after he took up with

Ferrie. Shortly thereafter, Oswald joined the Marines, and was eventually stationed at Atsugi Naval Air Force Base in Japan. Garrison has evidence that Ferrie was a C.I.A. operative, and that Oswald was sent to Japan to receive his training as a C.I.A. courier. This would account for Oswald's otherwise unexplained ability to speak Russian.

The file in the National Archives entitled, "Oswald's Access to Information About the U-2" may be relevant at this point. If you would care to examine its contents, however, you will have a slight delay. It is unavailable until September, in the year 2039, along with files on David Ferrie, Jack Ruby, Oswald's landlady, (all of whom are now dead), and other such titles as "Reproduction of Official C.I.A. dossier on Oswald," "Memo from C.I.A. Director Helms re Lee Harvey Oswald," "Reply to Questions Posed by the State Department," "Telephone Calls to U.S. Embassy in Canberra, Australia, re: planned assassination," "Allegations of Pfc. Eugene Dinkin re: Assassination Plot," "Letter re: Assassination Sent to Costa Rican Embassy," and so on, and so on...What could still be secret about these things that they must be suppressed for 75 years?

Another partially suppressed document in the Commission's volumes that might have some relevance is Commission Document 917. It is a cablegram from the American Embassy in Moscow to the F.B.I., C.I.A., State Department, Immigration & Naturalization Service, and the Marine Corps. Dispatched November 3, 1959, the cable reads in part, "Concerning the renunciation of U.S. citizenship and request for Soviet citizenship by Lee Harvey Oswald, former marine and—" at which point approximately 41 letters have been deleted without explanation. The Commission lawyer in charge of this phase of the investigation later said he never had any idea by whom or why the 41 letters were deleted. The cablegram then continues,

"Oswald stated he was radar operator in Marcorps and had offered to furnish Soviets info he possesses on U.S. radar." Apparently Oswald had a superior knowledge of such matters not ordinarily given to every Marine private. In an Associated Press interview on December 4, Oswald's former lieutenant John E. Donovan said Oswald's actions "compromised all our secret radio frequencies, call signs, authentication codes. He knew the location of every unit on the West Coast and the radar capability of every installation." In a deposition for the Warren Commission, Lieutenant Donovan also stated Oswald's defection "necessitated a lot of change of aircraft call signs, codes, radio frequencies, radar frequencies."

Therefore the Commission concluded in its Report, "Although Oswald's statement in 1959 that he would furnish the Russians with information he had obtained in the Marine Corps may have indicated that he would disclose classified information, there was no indication in 1963 that he had any valuable information."

ASK A SILLY QUESTION

Nevertheless, Garrison asks, "Isn't it odd that even though he supposedly defected to the Soviet Union with Top Secret data on our radar nets, no action was taken against him when he came back to the United States?"

In fact, not only was Oswald not immediately arrested for treason, he was given a loan by the State Department to return to the U. S. from Russia. Back in New Orleans, in the summer of 1963, Oswald established the FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE.

Here Oswald is shown passing out literature in front of Clay Shaw's building, the International Trade Mart Building. This photograph was shown to various witnesses in an effort to determine the identity of the man assisting Oswald in the distribution effort. The Commission never requested circulation of the photograph among the knowledgeable members of the Cuban underground. Garrison did, and learned his identity very easily. The first person to put a name to the face was Eladio Del Valle, a close friend of Dave Ferrie. Del Valle, an ex-Batista official, reportedly paid Ferrie \$1500 a mission in preparation for airborne missions against Castro's military installations. On the exact same day Ferrie died in New Orleans, Del Valle, 43, was found dead in Miami, with his head split open by a hatchet going down to his ears, and a bullet through his heart. The case is still listed as unsolved by the Miami police.

Some of the pamphlets Oswald gave out here and elsewhere had the address "544 Camp Street" stamped on them. The Warren Report says the Commission's investigation failed to connect Oswald with that address. Garrison has numerous witnesses willing to testify in court that they saw Oswald working in that office. Dave Ferrie was also seen there. It was then occupied by three men — Guy Banister, Hugh Ward, and Maurice Brooks Gatlin, as a clearinghouse for Cuban exiles and paramilitary right-wing activities. Banister and Ward were listed in secret Minutemen files as members of the super-patriotic "Minutemen" organization and operatives of a group called the Anti-Communism League of the Caribbean, assuredly, an intermediary between the C.I.A. and Caribbean insurgency movements.

BAD INSURANCE RISKS

Garrison was extremely interested in these three men, and set out to contact them. Banister, a former F.B.I. agent, died of an apparent heart in the summer of 1964. Hugh Ward died May 23, 1965 when his Piper Aztec carrying former New Orleans Mayor Chep Morrison, plunged to earth near Ciudad Victoria, Mexico. The search for Gatlin likewise proved futile. In 1964, he fell or was pushed from the 6th floor of the El Panama Hotel in Panama during the early morning, and was killed instantly.

Richard Case Nagell, a C.I.A. agent in the summer of 1963 said he met Lee Harvey Oswald in Mexico City. Through this association, he says he learned of a right-wing anti-Castro plot to assassinate President Kennedy. Nagell says he was asked by others in the conspiracy to help them appeal to Oswald's ego in setting him up as the "patsy," or decoy to create a diversion for the police

after the murder. Nagell says he wrote a letter in September 1963 to F.B.I. director J. Edgar Hoover, which was ignored. To establish an alibi, on September 20, 1963, he fired a gun into the ceiling of an El Paso, Texas bank. He had expected, he said, to be arrested and given a light sentence or fine by local authorities, for disturbing the peace. Instead, he was charged in Federal criminal court for illegally discharging a firearm on Federal property (since it was a Federal bank), and was sentenced to the maximum ten years, in Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary. Since cooperating with Garrison, he is periodically transported by Federal authorities to the nearby mental institution in Springfield, Missouri, and threatened with being permanently committed there.

THE GRASSY KNOLL

Former F.B.I. agent William Turner, now a major investigator for D.A. Garrison has expressed the opinion that the "Dealey Plaza site was ideal for a paramilitary operation. There were some tall buildings at one end; at the other a grassy knoll projecting to within a stone's throw of the roadway and covered by foliage and the slowly-rolling Presidential limousine was trapped in a classic guerilla ambush with simultaneous fire converging from the knoll and from a multi-storied building."

Lee Bowers in a railroad tower overlooking the grassy knoll said he saw two men go stand behind the wooden fence just before the assassination. The area was partially hidden from view by heavy bushes and trees, but at the time the shots were fired, he saw a flash of light or puff of smoke. Seven witnesses on the elevated railroad bridge southwest of the knoll also saw a puff of smoke.

J.C. Price, a Post Office employee, standing on the roof of the Terminal Annex Building in Dealey Plaza, told Mark Lane he saw a man run from behind the fence after the shooting and dash across a parking lot, disappearing behind the Texas Schoolbook Depository Building. Price also said the man was carrying something in his hand which "could have been a gun". Almost two-thirds of all witnesses who were asked or expressed an opinion as to the direction of the shots, said the came from the direction of the grassy knoll.

Recently, Garrison has discovered Jim Hicks of Enid, Oklahoma, who was standing 100 feet from the limousine when the shots were fired. He was able to get a glimpse of the assassins behind the wooden fence, and has recently given his testimony to the Orleans Parish Grand Jury. The District Attorney also has a photograph of four men firing from behind the wooden fence. He also has a lot of documentation.

KENNEDY YOUTH

On June 18, 1968, I visited Garrison's office on the second floor of the Criminal Courts Building at the corner of Broad and Tulane Streets. I was delegated to Mr. Tom Bethell, a former London writer, who was now in charge of research, particularly in the National Archives. Appearing at first uninterested in my offer to do volunteer investigative work on the probe of

the Kennedy assassination, we began to discuss the case. I began to outline my most knowledgeable areas in which I had studied. Incredulously, he asked if I could (extemporaneously) back up some of my statements. He was astounded as I routinely rattled off facts, names, locations and times. Then he assigned me to do investigative research into the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King and Senator Robert Kennedy, to detect possible clues that the same organization which killed the President was responsible.

1. The first and most obvious possibility of a New Orleans based conspiracy was the account of bearded songwriter Charles Stein, 39, who was widely quoted in the press as saying he took a six-day trip from Hollywood to New Orleans (in that mysterious Mustang) with a man by the name of Eric Starvo Galt. Stein said he stayed over with a married sister while Galt contacted a wealthy businessman at a nearby French quarter motel.

He was given the cross-country ride, Stein said, in exchange for signing a petition to qualify former Alabama Gov. George Wallace for California's June 4 Presidential primary. He was quoted as saying of Galt, "If he did kill King, he was paid for it."

2. Bill Barry, a reporter for THE MIAMI NEWS, broke the story on February 2, 1967 that two weeks before President Kennedy was killed, the Miami police intelligence division had a hidden tape recorder at a meeting attended by organizers of the States' Rights party.

Before the meeting began, the leader discussed plans for the pending assassination of President Kennedy. He stated that one man would be used as a decoy, while the snipers would locate themselves in strategic positions, like tall buildings while President's car passed by.

Then he named one of the assassins, saying, "he is just as likely to get him as anybody...he tried to get Martin Luther King...he followed him for miles and miles, and couldn't get close enough to him." The man he named, according to Barry, was not Lee Harvey Oswald, but a Klan leader from Tennessee, who worked with right-wing groups coordinating efforts for the formation of a third political party, dedicated to States' Rights.

The spokesman said he was involved "in the bombing of the Birmingham Church in which several Negro children were killed." I reminded Garrison in the first report I submitted to him on assignment that the dynamite explosion of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church which killed four Negro children occurred September 15, 1963, while James Earl Ray was serving in prison from 1960 until his escape April 23, 1967.

SUSPECTS FREED

3. Former Deputy Sheriff Roger Craig told Garrison in October of 1967 that when Officer Tippit was killed, all functions of the Dallas Police force began to cease. Everything was shut down, he said, until the "cop killer" was found. "In fact," he remarked, "We had arrested several in the assassination of President Kennedy, but they were released."

Several suspects were arrested in the railroad yards, directly behind the grassy knoll area. One of the photographs Garrison now has, it was recently revealed, strongly resembles the early sketches distributed by the F.B.I. of the suspect in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King.

It also becomes increasingly obvious that the F.B.I.'s first suspect, Eric Starvo Galt, and the man presently awaiting trial, James Earl Ray, are two entirely different people. A description of Galt went out to the various F.B.I. offices with a set of fingerprints. About a month later, another description, somewhat at variance with the first went out on "Ray," with a completely different set of fingerprints. A press release issued about a week after Dr. King was shot said that "Galt" had taken dancing lessons between 1964 and 1965 in New Orleans. James Earl Ray had been in prison since 1960, and did not escape until April 23, 1967.

HORSING AROUND

4. The Reverend Jerry Owens, an Orange County, California Baptist minister, said that two days before Senator Kennedy was killed, he gave a got to talking about horses, the minister said, and he offered to sell one to Sirhan. He accepted, but said he would not have the price, \$300, until 11:00 p.m. that night. Sirhan asked to be left off near the Ambassador Hotel "to see a friend in the kitchen."

That night, Sirhan produced a \$100 bill, but said that he would not have the rest until 8 a.m. Tuesday. He was accompanied by an American girl with dark blonde hair.

The next morning Sirhan did not show up, but another man, apparently of the same nationality told Rev. Owens to meet Sirhan that night at 11:00 p.m., by the kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel, the exact place where the New York Senator was assassinated. He gave this man his business card, with his unlisted phone number, but due to a prior commitment was unable to show up that night.

Owens now definitely believes he was to be used as the getaway driver, and fears for his life. He received a phone threat the day after the murder, and another several days afterward. "What bothers me," he said, "is that the only men to whom I gave my unlisted number - besides the police - was Sirhan and his friend."

Then, on July 1, while driving his car near San Francisco, another automobile speeded up alongside his and tried to force him off the road into a fatal crash. By skillful maneuvering, he managed to escape, and is now hiding away in desperate fear. The police recorded Owens' story, but have since shown no interest or given any cooperation. The District Attorney declined an offer by the minister to repeat the story before the grand jury, meanwhile charging Sirhan with the murder stating, "He acted completely alone . . . There was no conspiracy."

CUBAN EXPATRIATE CAPER

5. Testimony in the Warren Commission's volumes indicates that Lee Harvey Oswald, or someone looking very much like him, in September of 1963, attended a meeting of the Cuban

Revolutionary Junta, where he stood up and shouted, "President Kennedy should have been assassinated after the Bay of Pigs, and some Cubans should have done that, because he was the one that was holding the freedom of Cuba actually," and added, "It is so easy to do it."

On June 14, 1968, Carlos De La Vega, a Cuban exile leader told the press that several weeks before Senator Robert Kennedy was killed, the organization

killed, the organization American student who showed films of his recent trip to Cuba, a young Arab engaged in a very heated controversy with the speaker. "He started insulting the Cubans," said De La Vega, "saying that we are members of the C.I.A.-or PAID by the C.I.A., and called us imperialist yankees."

"Later on," he continued, "one of our delegation's members, Jose Blarte, identified this fellow as being Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the accused assassin of Senator Robert Kennedy."

6. Mark Lane, author of the best-selling RUSH TO JUDGMENT, was in Jim Garrison's office a few months before Robert Kennedy was killed, when two men came in, asking to talk to the New Orleans District Attorney. Lane refused to publicly identify the men by name, but said he recognized them as friends of the New York Senator. They told Lane and Garrison that the late President's brother had asked them to come to New Orleans and inform Garrison that Robert Kennedy had come to realize that the Warren Report was wrong, and that if he were elected President, he would institute a new investigation and prosecute those responsible for the murder of his brother. He was also quoted as saying, "There are guns between me and the White House."

UNMAILED MEMO

7. On June 17, 1968, Crispin Curiel Gonzales was arrested in Mexico following the discovery of notes in his handwriting and over his signature, which read:

"I will have to try to erase completely from my memory - before the world learns about me - that I was in on the plot to kill Robert F. Kennedy."

He said he was a friend of Sirhan's (a fact affirmed by the F.B.I.) and knows that he was paid to assassinate the late New York Senator. The note went on, "The whole world knows it was a grand plot but, unfortunately they do not know the whole truth."

"I never knew who organized the assassination," the unmailed letter continued, "but that's not important. I know the world will never know all about it. I'll probably die soon in some part of Mexico."

On July 4, Curiel was discovered hanging by a mattress cover tied to a window. The ruling was suicide, but questions have been raised. His knees were touching the floor, and local Mexicans pointed out that mattress covers are seldom found even in Mexican hotels, and certainly never in a city jail. No autopsy was performed.

It is a vast, well-organized network, far more intricate in design and powerful in structure than the illusory International Communist conspiracy, a non-existent paranoid delusion propounded by mountebank mythmakers, who foster America's overwhelming apathetic condition in the name of patriotism.

There also exists a cancarous disease, which manifests itself in racial prejudice, and inability to speak out against injustice for fear of being labeled unpatriotic. Nevertheless, someone must stand up and say the emperor has no clothes on.

As the Roman citizens stormed the doors of the Senate protesting the alleged inalienability of Marc Antony, so too it is time for Americans to demand answers from our government, accepting nothing less than the full story. Five years after the assassination of President Kennedy, if every concerned American would write his Congressman we could learn the truth Christ promised would make us free. Our only hope is that America will finally awaken itself to the terrible truth that the murderers among us are still at large, free to kill and destroy at will. We must realize it before it is too late. They can make it happen again . . . unless justice is done, though the heavens collapse.

CONCLUSION

Other definitive evidence indicates that there was indeed a connecting link among the three assassinations, which I intend to have published in the very near future. Basically, all three were arranged and paid for by millionaires, particularly owners of construction companies and manufacturers of war materials, who had the most to lose by the dismantling of the war machine.

There exists in our favored land a psychotic, Fascist, paramilitary right-wing extremist organization, dedicated to liquidating anyone who stands in the way of the perpetuation of the profiteering war machine, and the suppression and manipulation of black people (and their black vote.)

reproduced here for the first time--

The above article was originally published in the December 19, 1968 issue of Belhaven College's student newspaper, the CLAN CALL. Immediately after its release, the college president ordered all copies confiscated and destroyed. Two and one-half months later, author Brown was dismissed from the college, as the president later explained in a letter, because, "Jim was obsessed with the Garrison trial" . . . *** As far as the investigation now is concerned, Mr. Garrison says he is stymied. The government refused him permission to see the autopsy X-rays & photos. "The C.I.A. has the names of the killers locked in their files," he says. Harold Weisberg, author of WHITEWASH, says our only hope now is for a Congressional investigation. *** Author Brown is considering a book based on recent discoveries. You will be notified if it materializes.

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